instance, the type material for *Iguanodon*, the first dinosaur named, consists of a few isolated teeth found in an unidentified spot in Tilgate Forest, England. Most authorities no longer consider ornithopod teeth alone to be diagnostic. In such cases, historical usage has based a taxon on later, more informative specimens. If a long-accepted name attached to such a taxon might be rendered invalid by the alleged doubtful status of the name-bearing type specimen, a more formal solution is possible, as suggested by Simpson (1945, p. 30), in which a specimen recognized as diagnostic is made a neotype. The alternative used by Hunt & Lucas — to reduce the name to a nomen dubium and to erect a new nominal genus for the later specimens — may be appropriate in cases in which the name associated with the type is obscure, but otherwise such a practice is likely to upset nomenclatural stability as it is both traditionally understood and defined by the provisions of the Code.

Coelophysis is a 'long-accepted name' with an 'accustomed meaning' (the Ghost Ranch theropod) and should be conserved as a valid name by designating a neotype as proposed by Colbert et al.

Additional reference

Simpson, G.G. 1945. The principles of classification and a classification of mammals. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, no. 85. xvi, 350 pp. American Museum of Natural History, New York.

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I wish to support the argument of Colbert et al. on the grounds that the name *Coelophysis bauri* is thoroughly and unequivocally established in the technical and popular literature in the sense of the Ghost Ranch skeletons and that the proposed neotype comes from the same stratigraphic level as the material described by Cope.

(4) Support for the application has also been received from Dr Dale A. Russell (*Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6P4, Canada*).

Comment on the proposed conservation of the subspecific name of *Catharacta antarctica lonnbergi* Mathews, 1912 (currently *Catharacta skua lonnbergi*; Aves, Charadriiformes)
(Case 2816; see BZN 50: 48–51)

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We agree with Voisin et al. that disturbance to the current nomenclature of the brown skua by the resurrection by Brooke (1978) of the name *Stercorarius antarcticus*

madagascariensis Bonaparte, 1856 should be avoided. One of us (Bourne) felt that corrective action on the name to be conserved might be needed but hesitated to initiate this before seeing Bonaparte's type specimen.

There is still doubt about the identity of the type of *S. a. madagascariensis*. The *Catharacta* breeding in the Southern Ocean become smaller from *lonnbergi* of the New Zealand area westward to the *antarctica* of the Falklands area (see also Murphy, 1936). A tarsus as long as 85 mm (para. 3 of the application), which Dr Voisin informs us was checked after dismounting, is only found in the first area, whilst a wing span near 370 mm is found only in the second (Furness, 1987). Thus, the bird presumably belongs to one of the intermediate populations, named *Catharacta skua hamiltoni* by Hagen (1952), occurring at some of the breeding islands such as Tristan, Gough, and possibly also St Paul and Amsterdam Islands (Segonzac, 1972); these were commoner when the type of *madagascariensis* was collected.

Hitherto the simplest solution might have been to consider the race of *S. a. madagascariensis* indeterminable, eliminating any need for Commission action. However, with the development of molecular genetic techniques it has become feasible to obtain taxonomic information from DNA in the skin and feather bases of museum specimens. Drs B. Cohen, R. Wilson and R. Furness have examined base sequences among all the skua taxa from which Bonaparte's type is likely to have come and it should be possible to identify the actual population.

The specific name of *hamiltoni* Hagen, 1952 was rejected by Richardson (1984) among others but some authors, including Furness (1987), are continuing to use it. Therefore we propose that if the application by Voisin et al. is approved this name, which is also junior to *madagascariensis*, should be included with *Catharacta antarctica lonnbergi* Mathews, 1912 on the Official List.

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *hamiltoni* Hagen, 1952, as published in the trinomen *Catharacta skua hamiltoni*.

Additional references

Hagen, Y. 1952. Birds of Tristan da Cunha. *Results of the Norwegian Expedition to Tristan da Cunha 1937-1938*, **20**: 1–248.

Murphy, R.C. 1936. Oceanic birds of South America. *American Museum of Natural History*, **2**: 1006–1034.

Richardson, M.E. 1984. Aspects of the ornithology of the Tristan da Cunha group and Gough Island, 1972-1974. *Cormorant*, **12**: 123–201.

Segonzac, M. 1972. Données recentes sur la faune des îles Saint-Paul et Nouvelle Amsterdam. *L'Oiseau*, **42** (Special number): 3–68.

Comments on the proposed designation of *Lagomeryx ruetimeyeri* Thenius, 1948 as the type species of *Lagomeryx* Roger, 1904 (Mammalia, Artiodactyla)

(Case 2882; see BZN **50**: 133–136)

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